

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries

Miscellaneous units

Item number: 17/4/8

Item: Australian Observer Unit

Narrative

Appendix

[1-31 May 1953]

SECRET

WAR DIARY

Unit Aust Observer Unit

Month and year May 53.

Commanding officer

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to appendices
SINGAPORE	1 May 53	Voting was carried out today by all Aust Army personnel stationed in SINGAPORE in connection with the election of a new Senate. It is hoped that the votes from personnel in the Federation will be to hand early next week.	
	2 May 53.	The subject of the replacement for Sgt A.D.CAHILL MM was brought up again by FARELF. CAHILL is returning to Aust and FARELF have asked that his replacement be either a Signal instructor or jungle warfare instructor for the F.T.C. In the past some personnel have been posted here from Aust without much regard being paid to their qualifications etc to undertake the job. It is hoped that this signal to MELBOURNE will straighten out the position somewhat.	FARELF Signal MP2/1065 of 011630GH to UKSLS MELBOURNE refers.
	3 May 53.	Nil.	
	4 May 53.	It was learnt indirectly that L/Cpl ZIEBELL has been posted from 2 Station Wksps to BEME, 63 Bde, SEREMBAN, Malaya. No official notification has ever been given of this change and is another example of how personnel are moved without notification to this Unit. WO2 MADDOCK caught the day train to KLUANG to take up his appointment with 2 Station Wksps there.	

SECRETWAR DIARY

Unit Aust Observer Unit.

Month and year May 53.

Commanding officer

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to appendices
SINGAPORE	5 May 53.	The majority of Senate Ballot Papers were despatched to Australia today. The remainder to come will be forwarded earliest.	
	6 May 53.	Signal received from movements stating that Sgt DAVIE R Aust Inf emplanes QANTAS SYDNEY today.	
	7 May 53.	Sgt DAVIE deplaned SINGAPORE 1500 hrs GMT. Member is for two years posting to FARELF Training Centre, KOTA TINGGI.	
	8 May 53.	Remainder of Senate votes received and forwarded to Australia. Voting is now complete.	
	9-10 May 53.	Nil.	
	11 May 53.	Shipping papers for Sgt CAHILL submitted to FARELF today for his return to Aust. (See also previous entries for this member). His application to go direct on leave to the UK from SINGAPORE has been refused by AHQ, so he will now return to Aust for leave and reposting.	
		The upgrading of Sigm ANSTEE, HARRIS and JORDAN is approved. Step is from two to three star pay. This has been delayed for close on a year due to administrative delays in Australia.	
	12 May 53.	Capt WILLIAMSON left SINGAPORE for KUALA LUMPUR on night train for conference at Police Headquarters there.	

SECRETWAR DIARYUnit Aust Observer Unit
.....Month and year May 1953.
.....

Commanding officer

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to appendices
SINGAPORE	13 May 53.	Conference at KUALA LUMPUR this morning.	
	14 May 53.	Capt WILLIAMSON returned from KUALA LUMPUR and attended conference at PHOENIX PARK in afternoon.	
	15 May 53.	Signal despatched Army MELBOURNE requesting compassionate leave to Aust be granted 3/2725 Sgt BURGESS A W C because of death of his father. Member at present an instructor in Jungle Wing, FARELF Training Centre. C.O.L. rist of 6d a day plus 2d marriage allowance commenced today. Sgt A.D.CAHILL MM will embark on S.S. 'CHARON' on 25 May 53. for return to Australia on completion of tour of duty on loan FARELF.	
	16 May 53.	FARELF have signalled UKSLS MELBOURNE stating that Sgt BURGESS A.W.C. is not suitable as an instructor and request his return to Australia and that a replacement be provided. This is not the first time that NCOs from Australia have been branded as unsuitable at F.T.C. and it is thought that the fault may not lie with the members concerned but with the F.T.C. itself in the way the NCOs are handled and employed.	
	17 May 53.	Nil.	

SECRETWAR DIARYUnit Australian Observer UnitMonth and year . May. 1953.

Commanding officer

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to appendices
SINGAPORE	18 May 53.	<p>The following personnel are due to arrive by QANTAS from Australian today according to advice received.</p> <p>1/9786 Sgt STEWART G.G. 2/2514 Cpl BETTENS J. 3/10703 Signn McMILLAN M.J. 3/2873 Signn REID P.F. 1/2433 Signn GRACE E.C.</p> <p>These are replacements for members of No 1 Detachment 101 Wireless Regiment who have completed tours of duty in SINGAPORE.</p> <p>The above personnel deplaned SINGAPORE at 1350 hrs.</p>	
	19 May 53.	Nil.	
	20 May 53.	Consolidated return of rates of pay of all members of Aust Observer Unit in and around SINGAPORE compiled and forwarded to Chief Finance Officer MELBOURNE. This was done after the C.O.L. increase was entered in paybooks.	
	21-22 May 53.	Capt WILLIAMSON absent on duty over these two days at SELETAR.	
	23-24 May 53.	Nil	

SECRETWAR DIARYAustralian Observer Unit
Unit

Month and year May 1953.

Commanding officer

Place	Date	Summary of events and information	References to appendices
SINGAPORE	25 May 53.	Observed as a holiday in SINGAPORE. 3/2369 Sgt A.D.CAHILL MM embarked SINGAPORE on SS 'CHARON' for FREMANTLE W.A. on completion tour of duty 'On Loan' to FARELF. Member is for leave and reposting.	HQ SINGAPORE Base District Movement Order No 426 of 18 May 53 refers.
	26 May 53.	Nil of interest.	
	27 May 53.	Nil of interest.	
	28 May 53.	Letter received from CARO laying out procedure for speeding up publication of personal occurrence returns. All arrivals, departures, hospitalisations etc will be signalled direct to CARO as they occur and will be immediately repromulgated. Pt 11 Routine Orders received from CARO listing the upgradings to 3 star of Sigm HARRIS, JORDAN, ANSTEE and PARSONS. Also the promotions of Cfn ZIEBELL and Cfn POLGLASE both RAEME. ZIEBELL goes to paid L/Cpl while POLGLASE goes to Cpl.	
	29-30-31 May	Capt WILLIAMSON absent on duty. STRENGTH STATE AS AT 31 MAY 53 ATTACHED.	

Appx A.



STRENGTH STATE OF AUSTRALIAN OBSERVER UNIT MALAYA

AS AT 31 MAY 53.

9A-

(a) Officers.

1/112 Capt J.I.WILLIAMSON - Att GHQ Sig Regt.
3/7509 Capt B.S.O'DOWD - On Loan FARELF Training Centre.
2/40036 Capt J.M.DeCOSTA - RAF HONG KONG.

Total Officers - 3.

(b) OR on loan.

1/505 Sgt GRAHAM D.W.	- FARELF Training Centre.
3/2725 Sgt BURGESS A.W.C.	- " " "
4/158 Sgt DAVIE D.B.	- " " "
2/3152 L/Cpl WEST K.	- GHQ Signal Regiment.
3/901 Signmn STRAUGHEN J.M.	- " " "
2/3825 WO2 MADDOCK G.	- No 2 Station Wksps KLUANG.
3/2828 L/Cpl ZIEBELL I.D.	- BEME HQ 63 Bde.
2/3948 Cpl POLGLASE J.W.	- 6 Bn The Malay Regt.
1/455 Ssgt HINDS J.A.	- 1 Station Wksps TAIPING.
4/608 Cpl HOOPER-HALL R.	- " " " "

Total OR on loan - 10.

(c) OR Att.

2/1049 Sgt TURNER R	- GHQ Signal Regiment.
1/9786 Sgt STEWART G.G.	- " " "
2/2514 Cpl BETTENS J.	- " " "
2/4713 Cpl ALLWRIGHT R	- " " "
6/122 Cpl WEBB J.G.	- " " "
3/10703 Signmn McMILLAN M.J.	- " " "
3/2873 " REID P.F.	- " " "
1/2433 " GRACE E.C.	- " " "
2/4366 " ANSTEE M.G.	- " " "
3/10056 Cpl REID J.	- " " "
3/10678 Signmn BUCKTON T	- " " "
1/715 " CASEY W.E.	- " " "
3/2276 Cpl DARKER W.H.	- " " "
3/3366 Signmn FINCHER H.W.R.	- " " "
3/2735 " HARRIS R.G.	- " " "
3/3147 " JORDAN C.C.H.	- " " "
5/645 " KILLICK A.S.	- " " "
2/4075 " PEACOCK R.L.	- " " "
3/10810 " ADAMS A.J.	- " " "
1/1921 " OWBRIDGE W.G.	- " " "

Total OR attached - 20.

Total All Ranks - 3 Officers 30 OR.